



# RD Review

SPECIAL EDITION

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## Secretary Johanns Lends Ear to Ohio

Announces \$1.4 Million in Rural Development Business Expansion Funding



U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and Congresswoman Deborah Pryce participate in a farm roundtable discussion during a recent Ohio visit. Approximately 100 members from the agricultural community discussed issues focusing on renewable energy and improving America's energy efficiency.

During an August 29 Ohio visit, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced \$1.4 million in financial assistance to expand business and job opportunities in the state through USDA Rural Development's Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program. The package is the result of federal, state, and legislative teamwork that will help to improve operations at two businesses and create employment opportunities for more than 25 Ohio families.

"USDA is committed to working with our partners to create a more vibrant rural America," said Johanns during his visit. "These guaranteed loans are one of many USDA tools to help strengthen rural economies by facilitating business growth, job creation and retention. We invested more than \$40 million in Ohio during the last fiscal year and it's nice to know that we are making a real difference in the lives of rural families."

The two businesses

receiving loans are Northwind Safety Corporation and Halliday Technologies, both in Union County, Ohio. This funding will be used to construct new 12,000 square foot manufacturing facilities that will consolidate and improve daily operations. Northwind manufactures and distributes safety and first aid equipment. Halliday produces a highly accurate friction detection device designed to improve the efficiency of winter snow and ice removal

See *Transform* on p. 2

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**Transform** cont. from p. 1 from Ohio's roads. The companies will receive approximately \$700,000 and \$564,800, respectively, through USDA Rural Development.

This financing package required close coordination and collaboration between the lender, Commerce National Bank, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac). This business arrangement between Farmer Mac and lending institutions expands the institution's lending capability while increasing financing options for businesses in rural areas.

"We had no idea USDA Rural Development provided



U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns talks with Ohio farmers during a roundtable discussion focusing on renewable energy issues. Johanns also announced \$1.4 million in funding to two Ohio businesses.

economic assistance to businesses," said Northwind President Bryan Smilges. "Their program certainly

helped us improve production capacity and efficiency. I'm sure there are business owners, or those thinking about starting a business who would benefit from investigating how Rural Development might be able to help them as well." The \$40 million in Rural Development funding provided to Ohio in fiscal year 2005 targeted assistance to businesses in need. Loans ranged from \$500,000 to as much as \$10 million.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

## ***RD Housing Administrator Awards Funds During Ohio Visit***

USDA Rural Housing and Community Facilities Administrator Russell Davis joined Ohio State University South Centers Director Tom Worley in announcing \$519,960 in Rural Development funding in Community Facilities and Housing Program funds. The funds will be used to provide needed emergency equipment and infrastructure for rural Ohio communities. Funds will also be allocated to assist 12 families as they construct their own homes under Rural Development's Self Help Housing program.

"Today's announcement is indicative of the tireless efforts the Ohio Rural Development staff exercise on behalf of rural Ohioans," said Davis. "Increasing the capacity of Ohio's first responders helps address the safety and security concerns while the addition of a new housing partner helps to bring the dream of home ownership closer to reality to more Ohioans." Funding recipients



Barbara Conover, executive director of Three Rivers Corporation, Inc. accepts a check from USDA Rural Housing Administrator Russell Davis during a Rural Development funding announcement. The funding comes from Rural Development's Self-Help Housing Program and will be used to help 12 families build their own homes.

included: The Noble Learning Center, Inc., Noble County, \$50,000 towards the construction of a childcare center building,

equipment and furniture; the Village of Bethesda, Belmont County, \$50,000 to purchase an aerial ladder fire truck; the Village of Fairport Harbor, Lake County, \$35,000 to make emergency repairs to a flooded senior citizens/community center; Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, Knox County, \$40,000 to purchase a fire truck; the Village of Quaker City, Guernsey County, \$38,000 to be used for Village improvements; Holmes County Fire District #1, Holmes County, \$20,000 to purchase a medic unit; the Village of Empire, Jefferson County, \$19,000 to purchase two police cruisers; the Adena Fire Company, Jefferson County, \$17,000 to pay for the pavement of a fire station access road and parking lot.

The Three Rivers Housing Corporation, Inc. is a partner to Rural Development's Self-Help Housing Program and received \$250,960 to help 12 limited income families build new homes.



(From Left) Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, Kevin Durbin of Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District, USDA Administrator Russell Davis, Judy Newman representing Congressman Ted Strickland's office and Karen Sloan representing Senator Mike DeWine's office, take part in announcing more than \$250,000 in Rural Development Community Facility Grants to eight funding recipients.

### USDA

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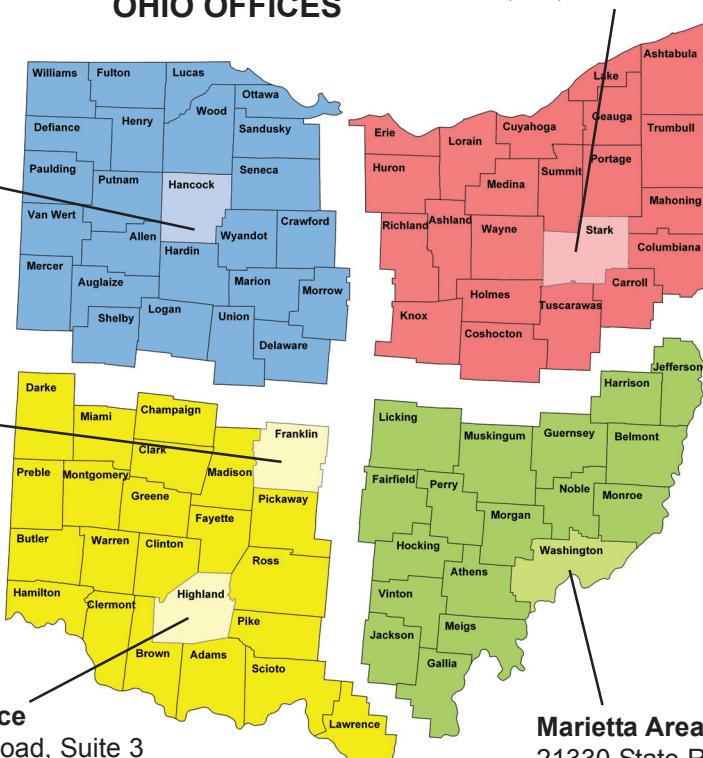
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